



## U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney  
District of New Hampshire*

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release  
Wednesday, May 14, 2003**

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### **HUDSON MAN SENTENCED IN EXTORTION CONSPIRACY**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE:** United States Attorney Tom Colantuono today **announced** that the United States District Court sentenced Andrew Ghalashahi, 22, of Hudson, New Hampshire, to 30 months in federal prison for his role in an extortion conspiracy that occurred last summer. Ghalashahi received a 30 month sentence on conspiracy to commit extortion, a 24 month sentence on extortion, and a 30 month sentence on receiving the proceeds of extortion. Each of the sentences were ordered to run concurrently. Ghalashahi was also ordered to pay \$5,000 in restitution to the victim of the extortion and a \$1,000 fine. He will serve a two-year period of supervised release upon his release from prison.

Ghalashahi was convicted on February 7, 2003, after a four day jury trial on charges of conspiracy to commit extortion, extortion, and receiving the proceeds of an extortion. Ghalashahi was indicted on August 21, 2002 and charged with conspiring with another person to make and making telephone calls threatening to harm the reputation of Kurt Engelhardt and threatening to accuse Engelhardt of a crime in order to extort money from Engelhardt. The indictment also alleged that Ghalashahi and another person were successful in obtaining \$5,000 from Engelhardt and demanded at least \$300,000 in additional payments.

United States Attorney Colantuono expressed his appreciation to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for its assistance in investigating the case and referring it to the United States Attorney's Office for prosecution. U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "This case demonstrates my office's commitment to aggressively prosecute extortion cases whenever they arise in this District." This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Don Feith.